

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05

/071 W

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R 271056Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6615

AMCONSUL UDORN

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12564

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF THAI/KHMER CLASHES IN SURIN PROVINCE

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE JUNE 27 ISSUE OF THE NATION CARRIED A STORY ATTRIBUTED TO THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF SURIN PROVINCE OF NORTHEAST THAILAND. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ARMED CLASH BETWEEN THE THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE AND SOME 50 KHMER SOLDIERS " WHO HAD CROSSED INTO THAILAND." HE SUGGESTED "WE MAY NEED MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS VERY SOON TO PREVENT ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENTS."

2. AN UNOFFICIAL AMERICAN WHO USED TO WORK IN CAMBODIA AND WHO TRAVELED IN SURIN PROVINCE LAST WEEK TOLD US JUNE 27 THAT THE KHMER COMMUNISTS HAD RECENTLY MINED SOME OF THE ROADS ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. THE NOTION WAS TO PREVENT THAI TEAK POACHERS FROM CROSSING OVER. HE ALSO SAID THAT
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KC TROOPS HAD MADE SHORT FORAYS INTO SURIN IN SEARCH

OF RICE BECAUSE THEY WERE ON THE POINT OF
STARVATION. ODDAR MENCHAY PROVINCE OF CAMBODIA IS
A FOOD DEFICIT AREA.

3. COMMENT. THE PRESS HAS CARRIED SENSATIONALIST
STORIES OF EVENTS ALONG THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER
IN NORTHEAST THAILAND EVERY FEW MONTHS OVER THE
LAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE BELIEVE THE PRESS IS OVER-
REACTING TO THE SURIN DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S STATEMENTS.
CONSULATE UDORN IS NEVERTHELESS DESPATCHING A LOCAL
EMPLOYEE TO THE BORDER TO GET A FIRST-HAND READING.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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